

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 TRSE-00 /058 W

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R 181730Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1846

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, FR

SUBJECT: MARCHAIS SAYS PCF COULD VOTE FOR DIRECT ELECTION OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, IF...

SUMMARY: PCF LEADER GEORGES MARCHAIS SAID APRIL 17 THAT HIS PARTY COULD SUPPORT A LAW PROVIDING FOR THE DIRECT POPULAR ELECTION OF FRENCH REPRESENTATIVES TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, IF SUCH A LAW CONTAINS A "SOLEMN AND BINDING PLEDGE" THAT SUCH REPRESENTATIVES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO THREATEN NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE OR SOVEREIGNTY. APPEARING ON EUROPE NO. 1 MARCHAIS ALSO REAFFIRMED THAT THE UPCOMING UNION OF THE LEFT SUMMIT WILL "UPDATE" (RATHER THAN RENEGOTIATE) THE COMMON PROGRAM AND WILL NOT BE MARKED BY "HARDENING" OF POSITIONS OR

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BY "EXCESSIVE DEMANDS." END SUMMARY.

1. THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: MARCHAIS' STATEMENT, WHILE NOT GOING BEYOND WHAT THE PCF HAS SAID IN PRIVATE FOR SOME MONTHS, DOES BRING THE PARTY TO THE POINT OF PUBLICLY SUPPORTING THE CONCEPT OF A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, PROVIDING THAT SUCH AN ASSEMBLY DOES NOT THREATEN RIGHTS

AND PREROGATIVES PROPERLY BELONGING TO THE FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. IN CALLING FOR SUCH GUARANTEES OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, THE PCF HAS TAKEN A POSITION NEARLY IDENTICAL TO THAT OF THE GAULLISTS AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, HAS LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR A COMPROMISE ON THIS QUESTION WITH THE SOCIALISTS.

2. A STEP FORWARD?: WHILE SOME OBSERVERS ARE CALLING THE PCF STATEMENT A MAJOR STEP FORWARD AND AN ALIGNMENT OF THE FRENCH PARTY WITH THE "EUROCOMMUNIST" MOVEMENT (COMING SHORTLY AFTER GISCARD NOTED PCF DIVERGENCE FROM PCI STAND), IT MIGHT BE MORE ACCURATE TO SAY THAT THE PCF HAS NOW CHOSEN TO SPOTLIGHT THE POSITIVE SIDE OF A CONTINUING POSITION. RATHER THAN BEGINNING WITH OUTRIGHT REJECTION OF A EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY BASED ON FEAR OF EXCESSIVE POWERS (FOLLOWING WHICH THE MANNER OF SELECTING DELEGATES BECOMES A CONTRIBUTING BUT TRIVIAL FACTOR), THE PCF NOW BEGINS BY FIRST AGREING THAT DIRECT POPULAR ELECTION IS THE BEST, MOST DEMOCRATIC WAY TO SELECT REPRESENTATIVES AND THEN PROCEEDS TO THE CORE ARGUMENTS CONCERNING THE LIMITATION OF THE POWERS OF THESE DELEGATES, AND HENCE OF THE PARLIAMENT. IN SHORT, THE PCF STANDS TO GAIN BY APPEARING MORE REASONABLE AND DEMOCRATIC-MINDED, BY BEING AS GAULLIST AS THE GAULLISTS, AND BY AVOIDING AN UGLY CONFRONTATION WITH THE SOCIALISTS (WHO ARE COMMITTED BY IDEOLOGY TO SUPPORTING A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT), WHILE MAINTAINING ITS BASIC POSITION OF HOSTILITY TOWARD ANY POSSIBILITY OF AN UNFETTERED, UNCONTROLLABLE EUROPEAN INSTITUTION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, FR, (MARCHAIS, GEORGES)
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